

8th Grade Honors Science
Room 215
Ms. Kimberly Hernandez
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Course Description

This course is designed to help students gain a better understanding of different scientific concepts they encounter in everyday life. Students will learn about the scientific method, evolution and natural selection, genetics and gene inheritance, atoms and molecules, and how energy is transferred from one unit to another. They will also be able to form, support, and defend a position on a Science sub-topic relevant to the 21st Century.

Semester Units

Semester 1 (Fall):

- Scientific Method
- Evolution
- Genetics and Variations
- Populations
- Natural Selection
- Technology's influence on human life

Semester 2 (Spring):

- Energy transfer
- Atoms and Molecules
- Physical and Chemical reactions
- Natural hazards and Geological events
- Biosphere and Rock Layers
- Scale, Proportion, and Quantity

* Please note this schedule is subject to change

Textbook

Textbooks are designed to be used IN CLASS ONLY. Students will not have homework assignments directly from the book unless photocopies of those pages can be made.

Course Expectations and Rules

Please follow the student hand-book for all the rules and expectations set by North Pointe Prep. These rules can be found in the front of the classroom.

- **Be on time**
- **Respect Yourself and Others**
- **Be Prepared**
- **Do Your Best Work**
- **Maintain an Environment for Learning**
- **Keep a Positive Attitude**
- **Take Responsibility**
- **Dress Appropriately**
- **Use Your Time Wisely**

Lab Activities

From time to time, this course involves lab activities. These activities often involve specialized equipment and/or expensive materials. Due to safety issues related to lab activities, students must respect the rules and equipment at all times. Students who do not follow directions, who do not maintain professional behavior, or who otherwise jeopardize the safety of others or the authenticity of lab results will NOT be permitted to participate in that lab (and possibly other labs in the future). They will instead

observe, takes notes, and complete an alternate assignment (usually a short essay) in order to receive a grade for the lab.

Grades/Homework

Science is not homework-heavy, but occasionally there may be assignments to be completed on the students' own time. The purpose of homework is to reinforce or practice a skill, to provide the teacher with a "check for understanding" tool, and to help students with organization and time management. For this last reason, some assignments may have long-term deadlines that must be managed by the students. Except in the case of research projects, homework will never be given on material we have not first covered in class, and will never be given over school breaks and holidays.

The Science Department calculates grades on a straight point system. Assignments and tests are not weighted. If something is more critical to your grade than something else, it will be worth more points.

Please check your online gradebooks frequently as I update them often. Students who do not have online access to their gradebooks may ask the teacher to check their grades before or after school (during tutoring), but class time will not be interrupted for a student's grade check.

Students whose grade falls to an "F" at any time after the first two weeks or a quarter will be required to complete an IAP (academic probation) AND are strongly advised to attend tutoring (Mondays and Wednesdays after school).

Grades will be based on total points.

Grading Scale		
A	≥ 90%	4.5
B	≥ 80%	3.5
C	≥ 68%	2.5
D	≥ 58%	1.5
F	< 58%	0.0

Once enrolled, North Pointe does not accept course credit from other high school or online institutions.

* Please note that teaching assistants may be present in the classroom and may grade multiple-choice, true/false, participation-only, or other non-subjective portions of your student's work. TAs will never grade essays, projects, or labs, and will never have access to your child's gradebook.

Other Reminders

Students are expected to use the bathroom before and after school, at lunch, and during passing periods. That said, emergencies arise, and no student will be denied bathroom privileges unless they are caught

abusing them. Please note, when you use the bathroom during class time, you are choosing to miss a portion of class. Class does not pause while you are gone, and any information missed or work not completed must be made up during tutoring. North Pointe policy prohibits bathroom use during the first and last five minutes of a class period.

Cell phones are to be stowed in student backpacks (not pockets) and remain unseen and unheard during class time. Cell phones/backpacks may not be taken into the bathroom. Other personal electronic devices (tablets, smart watches, earbuds, etc.) also may not be used. If the teacher determines that an assignment or activity would benefit from electronic usage, special permission will be obtained from administration. Students violating any school rules via those devices will be referred for disciplinary action and may be banned from future electronic usage.

Supplies

Required Supplies

Pencils	Spiral or Composition Notebook
Pens	1 1/2" binder
Eraser (s)	FREE CHOICE READING BOOK - grade level and appropriate
Highlighters	
Pencil box or pouch to organize above materials	
Loose leaf notebook paper	

Optional supplies

Post-it notes
Index cards
Ruler with metric measurements

Classroom Supplies/Voluntary Donations

From time to time, parents ask if they can contribute items to the classroom. Absolutely, YES, but this is 100% voluntary. If you wish to donate something, the following items are always needed:

Kleenex	Construction paper
Hand sanitizer	Markers/Sharpies
Clorox/Lysol wipes	Poster boards
Extra pencils/pens	White board markers/erasers
Extra loose leaf paper	Fun-sized candy (prizes for review games)
Extra glue sticks or liquid glue	

Parents, Guardians, and Students

Please fill out the information to acknowledge you have read and understood the syllabus. All North Pointe Policies and applicable guidelines from the student handbook will be observed and followed in the classroom.

Please return this page by **signed and dated** by _____.

Please feel free to email me at khernandez@pointeschools.org if you have any questions, comments, or concerns. I look forward to getting to know you and your student, and to having a wonderful year!

Student Signature

Student Name (Please Print)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print)

Parent/Guardian Contact Information

Name: _____

Email: _____

Name: _____

Email: _____
